

BIBLICAL RECORDER

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SBC leaders call for ‘restitution-based’ immigration reform

By LIZ TABLAZON | BR Assistant Editor

Southern Baptist and other evangelical leaders are calling for restitution-based immigration reform that is “based on Christian teaching about the necessity of upholding the rule of law in a humane manner,” Bruce Ashford, provost of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS), wrote in a Fox News op-ed Nov. 17.

The Evangelical Immigration Table (EIT) released a statement Nov. 6 urging elected officials to consider a process that would require immigrants who illegally entered the United States or overstayed a visa as adults to pay fines in installments over a period of seven years, and then permit them to apply for permanent residency.

The EIT also called for a pathway to permanent residency for “Dreamers,” immigrants who were illegally brought into the country as children.

The statement was released days before the Supreme Court heard oral arguments over the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and President Donald Trump’s move to end it. DACA, implemented during former President Barack Obama’s administration, allows Dreamers to remain in the U.S.

“Although American authorities would be within their legal rights to deport Dreamers, they

See Reform page 7

More than 100 church planters a ‘beautiful’ sight



Mike Pittman, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s church planting team leader, stands before messengers to the annual meeting Nov. 11 with more than 100 church planters behind him on the stage. Messengers prayed for these planters and their families during the special service. (BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Assistant Editor

North Carolina’s 5.8 million lost people offers a daunting challenge to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), said Chuck Register, BSC executive leader for church planting and mission partnerships.

“We celebrate God’s amazing grace, birthing hundreds of new churches across our state,” Register said during the Nov. 11 evening church planting celebration service during the BSC annual meeting in Greensboro.

“Through partnerships with churches, local Baptist associations and church planting networks, the Baptist State Convention seeks to facilitate the planting of urban churches, rural churches, English speaking churches and non-English speaking congregations all with the same DNA – churches that seek to impact lostness through disciple making,” he said.

More than 100 church planters and family members took part in the service.

“You’re beautiful,” said Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC executive

director-treasurer. “We thank God for you.

“As you look at this group of people standing behind me tonight, it is somewhat representative of the way the face of North Carolina has changed over the years.”

BSC board members and officers as well as members of the church planting team were invited to pray with church planters on the stage. BSC church planting team leader Mike Pittman shared three stories of church planting across the state.

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Ronnie Floyd asks N.C. Baptists to join ‘Who’s Your One?’

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Assistant Editor

Evangeliism should be a priority among Baptists, Ronnie Floyd said during a “Who’s Your One?” service Nov. 12 at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s annual meeting in Greensboro. “There are many things that your church can do that are good things,” said Floyd, president and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Execu-

tive Committee. “What is the greatest thing your church can do?”

Focusing on Acts 1:4-11, Floyd said making evangelism a priority leads to progress. He pointed out that Jesus shared how people would soon receive the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 specifically focuses on telling the world about Jesus and “strategizes how the church should

See Floyd page 6

Thankful for N.C. Baptists' generosity in missions giving

Many things come to mind when I think of North Carolina Baptists, but one word that rises to the top is generosity. North Carolina Baptists are generous people, and I don't take for granted the prayers, the personal involvement through volunteer missions and the financial contributions you make to support missions and ministry efforts in our state, nation and world.

Among the many things we celebrated at our recent annual meeting was the faithful generosity of North Carolina Baptists in their financial support of missions through the Cooperative Program and other special offerings including the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) for international missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions. Support of Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) causes from N.C. Baptist churches last year



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
Baptist State Convention
of North Carolina executive
director-treasurer

totaled more than \$31.3 million, which was the highest total in our state convention's history. That figure represented 65 percent of our total missions receipts. To God be the glory!

As we approach the Christmas season, I want to encourage North Carolina Baptists to once again join me in praying for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and seek the Lord about how you as an individual and your local congregation might support this special offering this year.

As I travel to our different churches, I am pleased to see all the red boxes that individuals and families are filling so these gifts can be distributed to children in countries around our world by Samaritan's Purse, which is affiliated with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

I want to emphasize that it is equally important that we challenge

our people to also financially support the work we are doing through the LMCO.

On a personal note, I am pleased to inform you that it seems every missionary, every state executive director and every Southern Baptist that I talk with about International Mission Board (IMB) President Paul Chitwood is excited and thankful that Dr. Chitwood is leading the work of our IMB.

My wife Gloria and I feel blessed to personally know Paul and Michelle Chitwood, and we are thrilled that he is our IMB president.

He is a man of prayer and passion to reach the nations with the gospel. God is using him to help Southern Baptists increase the number of SBC missionaries so we can help fulfil the Great Commission in reaching the nations with the gospel.

The IMB has designated Dec. 1-8 as a week of prayer for international missions and this year's offering.


This national offering goal for 2019

is \$165 million. A number of free resources related to this year's offering are available online at imb.org/lmco.

These resources include prayer points, videos in multiple languages, offering kits and more to help you pray for and promote the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in your church.

Every dollar that's given to the Lottie Moon offering goes directly to support the work of the more than 3,600 active international missionaries.

Many of them are serving in dangerous mission fields where few, if any, people have ever heard the name of Jesus. In the past year alone, nearly 850 people groups were engaged through the work of the IMB.

"Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples" – 1 Chronicles 16:24 (NKJV). 



Diversity and inerrancy in the SBC

By **RONNIE FLOYD** | Baptist Press

Southern Baptists have proven and affirmed upon several occasions our commitment to stand on the Word of God – that the Bible is truth without any mixture of error. We stand on this truth as stated in the Baptist Faith and Message and its call to take the gospel to every person in every town, every city, every state and every nation. Our commitment to inerrancy starts at the local church, but when it comes to our cooperative efforts, it must be carried through at every level.

We as leaders should be committed to this – not just in our belief in the inerrant Word of God, but in strengthening our commitment as a Great Commission people to becoming a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual convention of churches. These two are not mutually exclusive, but go hand in hand.


One key to a healthier culture in the SBC is to

empower all churches, all generations, all ethnicities and all languages for gospel service. This is one of the main reasons we are restructuring our staff at the SBC Executive Committee to include three separate positions for multi-ethnic relations and mobilization. It's also one of the main reasons I was so intentional about my presidential appointments in 2015 and 2016. Among the many responsibilities that fall to the SBC president, making committee appointments often gets the most scrutiny. The process requires due diligence because it is one of the most significant long-term effects of the president of the SBC. When I served in the role, one of my greatest desires was for us to move forward in racial unity, and I knew that committee appointments were essential to that.

At that time, around 20 percent of our churches were multi-ethnic, and I was determined to match or exceed that number in our committee represen-

tation. In 2016, we had a Committee on Committees that was 22 percent non-white. At that time, this was unprecedented in our history, but it has now been surpassed by our current president, J.D. Greear. I am convinced that this intentionality is fundamental to a healthy future in the SBC.

Strengthening our commitment to becoming a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual denomination begins in the local churches and should be carried all the way through our presidential and trustee appointment process. It's my prayer that Southern Baptists remain a people of The Book while also realizing we have no choice but to become as diverse as possible – in our churches and our leadership. This is imperative if we are going to reach the people of America and the peoples across the globe.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Ronnie Floyd is president and CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.) 



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N.C. Baptists highlight church planting, ‘Who’s Your One?’

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

North Carolina Baptists commissioned more than 100 church planters and were called to prioritize personal evangelism during their 189th annual meeting held Nov. 11-12 at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center.

The meeting drew 1,387 messengers and included two special worship services – a church planting celebration and a service related to the Southern Baptist Convention’s (SBC) “Who’s Your One?” evangelism initiative that featured a message from Ronnie Floyd, president and CEO of the SBC’s executive committee.

The meeting theme was “God’s Great Work,” which emphasized the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. Messengers also approved a \$30.5 million budget for 2020, which included an increase in the percentage allocated to the SBC through the Cooperative Program for the 14th consecutive year.

Despite an overall budget reduction of \$500,000 from 2019, the 2020 budget calls for a 0.5 percent increase to SBC missions and ministry causes which moves the state’s SBC allocation to 42 percent.

‘Who’s Your One?’

Floyd challenged both pastors and laity to make a renewed commitment to prioritize evangelism in their churches and personal lives. Preaching from Acts 4:1-11, Floyd emphasized the urgency of evangelism. “People need Jesus, and people need Jesus now,” Floyd said. “Evangelism is urgent because Jesus is coming again.” (See story, page 1.)

Church planting

N.C. Baptists also celebrated how God is working among church planters across the state. During a special worship service focused on church planting, messengers were introduced to more than 100 church planters and their families who have recently planted churches in North Carolina. Messengers then joined in a prayer of commissioning over them.

Since 2009, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) has worked with about 1,100 church plants which have collectively reported nearly 8,700 baptisms during that 10-year period. State convention officials, including Mike Pittman, the recently appointed leader of the state convention’s church planting team, called on attendees to consider what role their church could play in helping plant new churches. (See story, page 1.)

‘I cannot come down’

During an address held in conjunction with the church planting service, state convention President Steve Scoggins, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hendersonville, preached from Nehemiah 6 on the meeting’s theme of “God’s Great Work.”

Scoggins quoted Nehemiah’s words in verse 3 – “I am doing a great work and I cannot come down” – to encourage North Carolina Baptists to



Brian Davis, left, associate executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), talks to a panel about the convention’s strategy for impacting lostness through disciple-making during the Board of Directors report during the Nov. 11 morning session of the BSC annual meeting. (BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

At left, BSC officers were re-elected; from left: Micheal Pardue, first vice president; Steve Scoggins, president; and Matt Ledbetter, second vice president. (BSC photo by K Brown)

stay focused on the work of the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. “Fulfilling the Great Commandment gives us great opportunities to fulfill the Great Commission,” Scoggins said.

Officers re-elected

Scoggins and the state convention’s first and second vice presidents were all re-elected to second terms of service in 2020 in uncontested elections. In addition to Scoggins, Micheal Pardue, pastor of First Baptist Church of Icard, and Matthew Ledbetter, pastor of Creeksville Baptist Church in Conway, were both re-elected to new terms as first and second vice president, respectively.

‘Get engaged’

In keeping with the meeting theme, BSC executive director-treasurer Milton A. Hollifield Jr. exhorted N.C. Baptists to “get engaged” in God’s great work by emulating Jesus. Preaching from Matthew 9:35-38, Hollifield said Jesus’ compassion for those in need led Him to take action in ministering to them. “Jesus felt for people in need,” Hollifield said. “Jesus cared and took time to show He cared. When we see people in need, we’ve got to show them compassion.” (See story, page 7.)

Revitalization expansion

Hollifield also announced plans to elevate the state convention’s church health and revitalization ministry. This effort will result in a new team to assist the 86 percent of churches in the state that Hollifield said are plateaued, declining or dying.

Bylaw amendments

Messengers also approved two amendments to the state convention’s bylaws that establish a process for removing individuals serving in

leadership roles for cases of “serious misconduct.”

The changes will apply to convention officers, members of the board of directors, appointees to special committees of the board, members of convention committees and members of Fruitland Baptist Bible College’s board of directors.

Caring well

As part of the state convention’s ongoing efforts to equip pastors and church leaders to prevent sexual abuse in the church, convention officials hosted a series of breakout sessions addressing various aspects of how to recognize, report and respond to potential cases of abuse. The breakout sessions included a panel discussion sponsored by the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission that included abuse survivors Susan Codone and Megan Lively.


Strategy update

State convention officials also provided messengers with an update on progress made in the five years since the implementation of the statewide strategy of “impacting lostness through disciple-making.”

Brian Davis, BSC associate executive director-treasurer, moderated a panel discussion with pastors and ministry leaders from across the state answering the question, “How has the strategy helped your church fulfill the Great Commission?”

Panelists shared a number of ways the strategy has helped them recognize lostness in their communities and engage in disciple-making through a variety of missions and ministry efforts.

2020 meeting

Next year’s BSC annual meeting is scheduled for Nov. 9-10, 2020, in Greensboro. Sam James, retired missionary with the International Mission Board, is scheduled to deliver the convention sermon. 

Church

Continued from page 1

Church merger

Betty Brady's church, Camp Herman Baptist Church in Browns Summit, was dying. There were only about 15 people regularly attending, and there was only enough money to last a few more months. She had been at the church more than 60 years.

"I couldn't stand the thought of boarding up those windows, somebody coming and shooting out those stained glass windows," she said. "We had to do something."

"We chose to take what we had and invest it in God's Kingdom."

Proximity Church was sent out by another congregation.

They sent Mike Reeve, Proximity pastor, and 15 people to plant a church at a middle school.

Every week, members and staff set up the church on Fridays and were able to store their equipment and supplies at the school, but the downside of meeting in a middle school is the smell, he said. During the summer, the county turns off the air conditioning, so services were challenging in the heat.

One morning, while Reeve was having quiet time, he received a call from Camp Herman's pastor about a possible merger. Reeve called Brady a person of influence that helped "the church along in the merger."

He called her the "matriarch of the church. We wouldn't be where we are today without Miss Betty."

Pittman asked Brady to share some of the changes that had occurred.

"Well, they treat me like a queen," she said to laughs from the crowd.

"Mike is just wonderful. He's a good pastor."

She also praised another pastor, but stressed that "we ain't trying to get rid of either one of 'em."

"But the thing that bothered me the most, and I still have a problem with it, is this music," she said. "I'm used to the Broadman Hymnal."

While it has been an adjustment for Brady, she said, "I'm doing better. I love it, I love the people."

While they are down to seven original members from Camp Herman, she said, "We're happy, and we praise God every day that the church is still standing, no busted windows, and we're open every Sunday."

Reaching Hispanic families

A year into studying the Book of Luke as a church, members of Flint



Mike Pittman, left, team leader for church planting at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), interviews Betty Brady, center, and Mike Reeve about a church merger near Greensboro. Pittman interviewed three sets of people about church planting during the opening session of the BSC annual meeting Nov. 11.

Photo at left, Pastor Corey Alley, right, of Sojourner Church in Concord talks about his involvement in church planting with two other church planters: Quintell Hill, second from left, and Daniel Smith, left. Hill was a church planting apprentice serving as part of the original Sojourner team that started planning in October 2018. He launched Multiply Community Church in Monroe in September. Sojourner and Multiply are working together to plant Grace City Church in Charlotte in 2020 with Smith as pastor. (BR photos by Dianna L. Cagle)

Groves Baptist Church in Gastonia realized Jesus saw people.

"We prayed for us to see people," said Pastor Ronnie Bowers. "We realized one of the largest unreached people groups in our areas were Hispanic families."

So, they worked with Jose Hernandez to plant a church four years ago with a block party.

Hernandez thanked Bowers for the resources and support.

"Our church used to look just like us," said Bowers, who is white. "Our people are now coming up and saying there are other nationalities besides us and Hispanic families. We ought to do something else with that. It's opened us up to a new stewardship, that all the things that God has blessed us with were not just for us."

Hernandez hopes to build on its efforts in community relations and developing church leaders to grow its ministry. For Bowers, this move has shown that "God can take all the things that we have, and we can use them in a better way, a more effective way for the Kingdom."

Churches planting churches

In 2010, Chris Hankins started The Point Church in a movie theater

across from North Carolina State University. Within 18 months, The Point's Apex campus started meeting.

In 2011, Donnie Paschall helped start Vertical Church in Lumberton, which also began in a movie theater. Within 24 months, Vertical launched a second campus.

These two churches have planted other sites as well.

"Both of these churches, when they came together, it was a like-minded work that happened," said Pittman, who, prior to his work at the convention, was a pastor at Vertical Church. It was part of the church's vision to reproduce or plant other churches.

"We can do more together than we can apart."

With Point and Vertical partnering together, Journey Church in Havelock began in February 2017.

David Mills pastors the Havelock plant.

The Point and Vertical provided money and people.

"We had no clue what we were doing," said Mills. "These two churches gathered around us and taught us what it was to be church planters."

Vertical, Journey and LifeSpring Church partnered to help Billy Roy start Crossroads Church in

Whiteville in December 2017.

"They helped us get off the ground," Roy said.

Almost two months later, Roy said Crossroads was already planning to plant another church.

So, Vertical, The Point, Journey and Crossroads helped start Sojourner Church in Concord in February 2019 with Pastor Corey Alley.

Alley said the church plans to plant churches in the Cabarrus/Concord region.

Quintell Hill was a church planting apprentice serving as part of the original Sojourner team that started planning in October 2018.


Hill launched Multiply Community Church in Monroe in September.

Sojourner and Multiply plan Grace City Church in Charlotte for September 2020 with Daniel Smith leading.

Smith is currently in a residency program with the two churches.

"And God is in the midst of all of it," Pittman said.

"These are normative size churches. This is something all of our churches can do."

For more about how your church can get involved in planting churches, contact (800) 395-5102, ext. 5548, or churchplanting@ncbaptist.org. 

Advice to ministers' wives includes using talents in the church

By **DIANNA L. CAGLE** | *BR* Assistant Editor

Pastors' wives were encouraged to share their gifts with their congregation Nov. 11 during the North Carolina Baptist Ministers' Wives gathering.

With a theme based on Ephesians 4:7 – "Buttons, Bows and Blessings" – ministers' wives elected officers, collected an offering and heard from PJ Giaritelli.

The group met at the Koury Convention Center at the same time as the North Carolina Pastors' Conference, which began a day earlier, and prior to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual meeting.

"I already know that I'm sitting among women who know the Bible, and you keep it in your hearts and you teach it all the time," said Giaritelli, wife of Joe Giaritelli, pastor of Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro. Instead, she said she wanted to focus on the wives' gifts and how they should be plugging into their churches.



The North Carolina Baptist Ministers' Wives elected officers at its Nov. 11 meeting at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. From left: Amanda Berryhill, Western region; Jan Tyson, Central 2 region; Katie Eades, president; Megan Knight, vice president and secretary; Harriet Lovett, treasurer; Kelly Self, president elect and Eastern region; Tammie Hendrix, publicity chairperson; and Beverly Williams, retreat chair elect. Not pictured: Renee Laws, retreat chair; Penny Church, retreat vice chair; Joy Townsend, Central 1 region; and Judy King, Western 2 region. (*BR* photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

The couple just celebrated 20 years at Lawndale in June. Giaritelli shared about her coming to Christ as a 16-year-old girl in Coral Gables, Fla. She had moved with her family from New Jersey to Florida. At 19, she knew God was calling her to serve Him in some way. She met Joe and followed him to Bible college. They served a nondenominational church in Michigan for less than four years before he resigned his position.

The couple moved to South Caro-

lina where they built three homes and sold them. He was either going to be a contractor or continue in a ministry path. They attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He was serving as a single adult and college minister before being called to Woodlawn. They have been married 47 years.

Giaritelli focused on three roles in her talk, being a Christian, pastor's wife and church member.

"Our own spiritual growth is not dependent on our husband as the pastor," she said. "He is our pastor, and he does feed us. As a believer we are responsible for our own relationship ... with [God]."

She had attendees share a characteristic beginning with the first letter of their name, along with a talent they have.

"That ability you told people, are you using that ability at church?" she asked.

With her gifts of administration and mercy, she encouraged the ministers' wives to apply their talents to their church, but to also be mind-

ful that they are not always the best person for the role.

"There was a time in my life I did not enjoy being a pastor's wife," she shared.

When she was in seminary, she realized that some people thought there was a mold for pastors' wives, and she was told she didn't fit in it.

"Once I realized there's no mold," she said, and "God made me the way I am, and whether I am married to the pastor or not, I don't change."

She reminded them that the church hired the husband, so they can't be fired. "We don't have quite the same freedom as regular members have," she said. There are going to be details that pastors' wives do not know.

After she asked the women to discuss the best quality of their husbands and churches, Giaritelli shared her husband's best: wisdom and humility.


"One thing I tell our young pastors' wives is never ever criticize your husband," she said. "You and I know what's wrong with them, but nobody else needs to know."

Giaritelli recommended the women "have someone watching you, helping you and being mentored by you."

Business

Participants also attended to some business during the 64th annual meeting. A \$1,442 offering, collected at the meeting, will provide scholarships for the N.C. Baptist Ministers' Wives scholarship fund for its summer retreat.


Officers elected include: Katie Eades, president; Kelly Self, president elect and Eastern; Megan Knight, vice president and secretary; Harriet Lovett, treasurer; Renee Laws, retreat chair; Penny Church, retreat vice chair; Beverly Williams, retreat chair elect; Tammie Hendrix, publicity chairperson; Joy Townsend, Central 1; Jan Tyson, Central 2; Amanda Berryhill, Western 1; and Judy King, Western 2. 



I SAW

A GREAT MULTITUDE

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Floyd

Continued from page 1

share this message with others,” Floyd said, “because people need Jesus, and people need Jesus now.”

“We may be doing good things in our churches, but are we doing the most important thing in and through our churches?”

The “Who’s Your One?” emphasis launched in February, calling people to choose one person to pray for by name every day, asking God for an opportunity to have a conversation about Christ.

“Every church in this convention of churches needs to begin like never before prioritizing evangelism,” Floyd said. “We have lost our heart for doing that.”

Some may ask about discipleship, Floyd said, but his response was “you can’t make a disciple unless they’re converted.” Floyd said he was not concerned whether Southern Baptists participate in “Who’s Your One?” specifically, but he stressed, “Do something. Whatever your strategy is, make sure it works, and go after it.” He asked pastors to make a “fresh commitment to prioritize evangelism in



Ronnie Floyd emphasizes the “Who’s Your One?” evangelism initiative, calling N.C. Baptists to respond to the call to tell others about Jesus. (BR photo by Dianna L. Cagle)

your church in everything you do.” But Floyd said it should begin with the pastor’s own life and preaching before examining the church’s ministries for evangelism emphasis.

“People could not get saved if they wanted to in some of our churches because we do not give them an opportunity to respond to God,” Floyd said.

“When evangelism is prioritized in your church, it always progresses beyond where it began.”

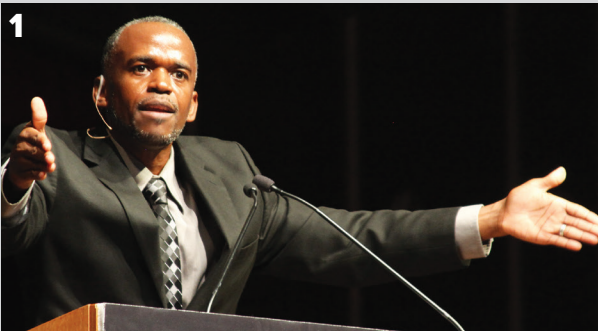
Not only should evangelism be a priority and lead to progress, but there should be an urgency to share the Good News of Jesus, Floyd said.

Jesus promises to come soon, he said, emphasizing a special need to reach students, ages 12-17. The decline in conversions in that age group is “dismal,” Floyd lamented.

“It’s like we fell off a cliff,” Floyd said. “If you really care about the future of your church, you will begin to focus ... on seeing the turnaround of that dismal decline.”

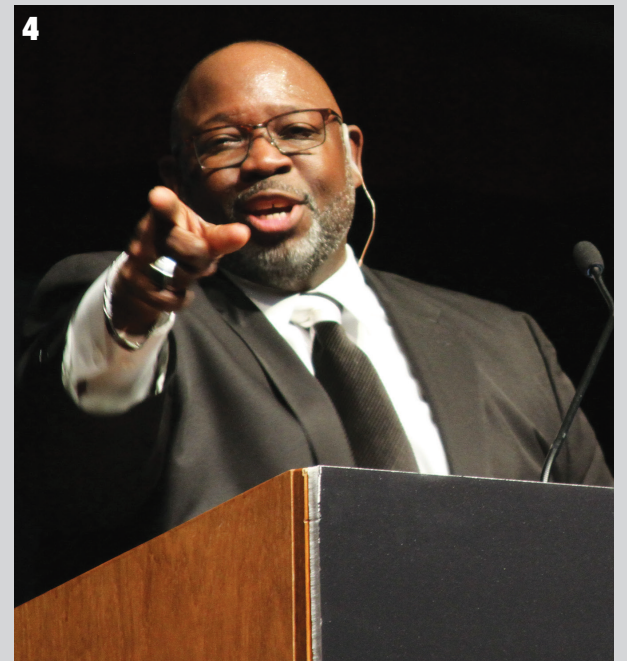
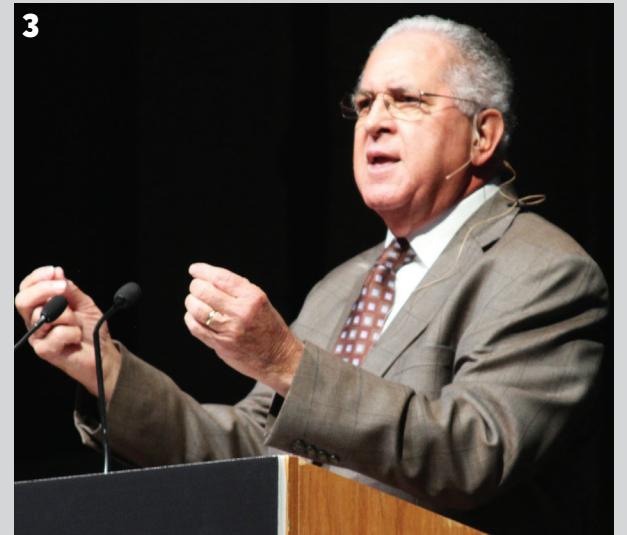
Floyd opened up the altar in the convention hall for people to pray for a variety of reasons: salvation, ministry, missional and evangelism priority decisions.

For more about “Who’s Your One?” visit whosyourone.com. 



2019 North Carolina Pastors’ Conference offers ‘One’ focus

During the two-day North Carolina Pastors’ Conference (NCPC) Nov. 10-11, attendees heard from seven pastors from different backgrounds. Held at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro prior to the Baptist State Convention of N.C. annual meeting, the theme “One” was based on Ephesians 4:4 – “*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call.*” Speakers included: 1. J.J. Washington, campus pastor for First Baptist Church Woodstock in Austell, Ga.; 2. J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Durham and president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC); 3. Mike Cummings, pastor of Deep Branch Baptist Church in Pembroke; 4. Alvin Summers, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Indian Trail’s Marshville campus; 5. James Fisher, pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Greensboro; 6. Daniel Ritchie, a speaker and author from Huntersville; and 7. Mike Stone, senior pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Blackshear, Ga., and chairman of the SBC Executive Committee. Attendees elected officers for 2021: Roger Barnes, president; and J. Allen Murray, vice president; John Campbell, treasurer. Ronnie Parrott, will serve as 2020 NCPC president. Officers are elected two years in advance. (BR photos by Dianna L. Cagle)



Hollifield: ‘Get engaged in God’s Great Work’

By CHAD AUSTIN | BSC Communications

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) Executive Director-Treasurer Milton A. Hollifield Jr. exhorted North Carolina Baptists to “get engaged in God’s Great Work” during his address to messengers on Nov. 12 at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Greensboro.

Evoking the meeting theme that emphasized the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, Hollifield shared three primary ways for N.C. Baptists to emulate Jesus in ministering to those around them from Matthew 9:35-38.

First, Hollifield challenged NC. Baptists to see the condition of people because Jesus saw the multitudes and cared for them.

“Their condition is compelling, and it compels us to get involved,” Hollifield said, adding that many people today are like people in Jesus’ day in that they are “like sheep without a shepherd.”

Many people have no purpose in life and no hope for tomorrow, Hollifield said. They are ravaged by personal problems, broken relationships and fragmented homes. Moreover, many people are spiritually lost and destined to spend eternity without Christ.

“What are you doing to help people know that God loves them?” Hollifield asked.

Second, Hollifield challenged N.C. Baptists to feel the compassion that Jesus felt when He saw people in need.

“Jesus felt for people in need,” Hollifield said. “Jesus cared and took time to show He cared. When we see people in need, we’ve got to show them compassion.”



Hollifield said Christians must ask themselves some sobering questions when it comes to serving and ministering to others.

“Do I care enough to get involved with lost people?” Hollifield said. “Am I willing to share the good news, this powerful gospel?”

Hollifield said a believer’s compassion should know no limits.

“We cannot reserve our compassion for only those who deserve it because we do not deserve the compassion Jesus has for us,” Hollifield said.

Hollifield also shared several examples of how the different ministries of the Baptist state convention are demonstrating compassion to those in need and helping churches minister to them in Jesus’ name. He also announced plans to elevate the convention’s church health and revitalization ministry. This effort will result in a new team to assist the 86 percent of N.C. Baptist churches that Hollifield said are plateaued, declining or dying.

Third, Hollifield challenged N.C. Baptists to hear and respond to Christ’s commission.

“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few,” Hollifield said.

“You have been called of God to minister to those who have spiritual and physical needs no matter their race or country of origin.

“Jesus loves them and died for them as much as He loves and died for you and me.”

Referencing Acts 1:8, Hollifield reminded messengers that God empowers believers and uses them to accomplish His work.

“Will you hear His commission for you?” Hollifield asked.

“Will you get engaged in God’s great work?”

“Take time to make a difference in someone’s life. Are you willing to get involved when you recognize a need?”

Visit vimeo.com/ncbaptist/videos. 

Reform Continued from page 1

would also be within their legal rights to adjust the application of our laws so that they can show mercy to Dreamers,” Ashford wrote. “Our nation has done so many times before in its history and, in doing so, has held together two deeply Christian concepts – justice and mercy.”

Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, signed the EIT’s statement and said the call for reform is important “because the security of our nation requires both a strong border and a society healthy enough to encourage those living in the shadows to come into the light.

“Millions of our undocumented neighbors in our communities and our churches want to do the right thing. They just don’t know what the right thing is, because our government can’t make up its mind about that. We would do well as a country to make a way for them to earn the chance to do so.”

Daniel Akin, SEBTS president, also signed the statement and explained the significance of the timing of its release in an interview with World Radio on Nov. 14.

“To get this out on the table now then allows persons, whether it be as representatives, senators or the president, to position themselves on what they would like to see us do in the future,” Akin said.

Alan Cross, lead pastor of Petaluma Valley Baptist Church in Petaluma, Calif., posted a series of tweets Nov. 19 describing the Southern Baptist Convention’s (SBC) perspective on immigration over the past 13 years.


In 2006, messengers to the SBC’s annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C., passed a resolution urging the U.S. Congress to “address seriously and swiftly the question of how to deal realistically with the immigration crisis.” The resolution called on government officials to “provide for the security of our nation by controlling and securing our borders,” and on churches to “reach out to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of all immigrants ... and to encourage them toward the path of legal status and/or citizenship.”

Again in 2011, messengers in Phoenix, Ariz., passed a resolution asking authorities to “implement, with the borders secured, a just and com-

passionate path to legal status, with appropriate restitutionary measures.”

Last year in Dallas, Texas, messengers passed another resolution “after seven years of continued policy gridlock” to “affirm the value and dignity of immigrants, regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, culture, national origin, or legal status.”

The 2018 resolution again emphasized secure borders and “a pathway to legal status with appropriate restitutionary measures, maintaining the priority of family unity.”

“This current call for restitution-based reforms directly derives from the work of Southern Baptists on this issue as we have sought to carve out a moral and ethical solution that is neither amnesty nor mass deportation, but honors the rule of law, creates a way to keep families together, and provides a way for people to get right with the law,” Cross said in a statement to the *Biblical Recorder*. “This evangelical call for restitution-based immigration reform is exactly what Southern Baptists have called for for years, and I’m glad to see it getting traction. I hope that many SBC pastors will sign on to it.” 

Catching a vision for South Korea

International Mission Board

Im-Sara is a believer – a preacher’s kid, too. But she had never been involved in missions. So when Hun Sol asked her if she wanted to be part of the six-monthlong student missions program he runs, she wasn’t sure.

“I prayed that God would move her,” said Hun, an International Mission Board (IMB) missionary who calls North Carolina home.

And God did, it seems. Im-Sara signed up to leave her home in South Korea and spend six months in another East Asian country. When her six months there were up, she asked if she could stay longer.

“She completed a year there,” Hun said. “She has a real heart for the people from that country now.”

And Im-Sara brought that heart back to South Korea with her. She found a part-time job at a fast-food restaurant at a university – someone had told her that students from the country where she had served came there for breakfast. So every day she worked there and built friendships with them and then she started a group especially for them at her church and invited them to come.

“Her heart was to reach out to them,” Hun said. “She committed herself to God to be a missionary, and she’s doing it.”

For many students like Im-Sara, participating in a midterm missions experience is life altering. They are trained and then sent out to work alongside IMB missionaries in different parts of Asia – a big stretch for them spiritually. Before applying to the program, many of the students don’t set aside daily time with God and about 80 percent of them have never shared the gospel before.

But they come back with eyes wide open to the importance of committing fully. “Before they leave here, we show them how to share the gospel,” Hun said. “Then in their six months on the field, they see how powerful it is. They realize sharing it is so important.”

Their excitement is contagious – Hun gets more and more applications all the time because the students’ friends and family want a taste of what they’ve experienced.

“In the beginning, it wasn’t easy to recruit people,” he said. “But after the students began to return, their lives were so changed that the people around them noticed and they want to join the program too.”

His hope is that students’ passion for the gospel and missions will revive the sleepy South Korean church to take the hope of Jesus to the world.

“In the past, the Korean church was gradually growing. Now it is stagnant



Three friends at Calvary Baptist Church in Singapore discuss the ways they’ve used entrepreneurship to create opportunities for others to share the gospel. (IMB photo)

Pray for ...

- Hun as he trains students to go out with the gospel.
- Korean student missionaries to spend time daily in the Word and prayer.
- God to use students to reach hard-to-reach peoples and spur others in South Korea to invest their lives following Christ.

or declining – there aren’t as many young people anymore,” Hun said. “We want to train up students who will start revivals. And we want to partner with the IMB to send them around the world and finish the task God gave us.”

Hun is part of the Week of Prayer focus Dec. 1-8 for the Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering for international missions. Visit imb.org/lmco. 

Julio Arriola named executive director of Hispanic relations and mobilization

By AMY WHITFIELD | Baptist Press

Julio Arriola has been named executive director of Hispanic relations and mobilization at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee (EC).

“Julio Arriola is one of the most gifted, winsome and relational leaders I know,” said Ronnie Floyd, EC president and CEO. “He walks with Christ deeply, has a great heart for evangelism, loves people, and knows how to mobilize them to mission and ministry.”

“Southern Baptists from all walks of life will benefit greatly from his life and his leadership. He and Carla are two remarkable people who love our Southern Baptist family,” Floyd said.

Arriola planted Iglesia Vida, currently the largest Baptist church in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2017. Prior to that, he served as global worship pas-

tor for Cross Church in Springdale, Ark., and he has served as worship leader and youth pastor at churches in Texas. Arriola and his family will relocate to Nashville by the end of 2019, and he will begin his work with the Executive Committee in January. “Almost a decade ago when I became a U.S. citizen, the doors of this great nation opened wide to me and my family to pursue dreams we never imagined,” Arriola told Baptist Press. “For many, the American dream may be a better financial situation, a house, a good education for their children, a few weeks of vacation a year or freedom to do whatever they want. But for me and my family, it has meant greater opportunities to spread the gospel of Jesus.”

Floyd announced Nov. 1 the addition of three full-time EC staff positions that would focus on increasing diverse engagement. This is the first

of the roles to be filled.

Arriola plans to graduate with a master of theological studies degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2020. He holds an

undergraduate degree from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

He is married to Carla, and they have three children – Daniel, David and Elizabeth. 

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Heath Thomas to become OBU’s 16th president

Oklahoma Baptist University

The Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) board of trustees voted Nov. 8 to elect Heath Thomas as the university’s 16th president during its fall meeting on the OBU campus in Shawnee. Thomas currently serves at OBU as the dean of the Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry and the associate vice president for church relations. He will assume the role of president in January 2020.


In addition to his duties as dean and associate vice president, Thomas also serves as interim dean of the divisions of behavioral and social sciences and language and literature, the Floyd K. Clark Chair of Christian Leadership and professor of Old Testament. He joined the OBU faculty in 2015 after serving as director of Ph.D. studies and associate professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Southeast-

ern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

A 1998 OBU graduate, Thomas earned a bachelor of arts in English literature with a religion minor. He then earned a master of arts in theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in Old Testament from the University of Gloucestershire (UK). He also earned a certificate for leadership in higher education from Baylor University in 2016.

He has served on staff at churches in Oklahoma, Texas, North Carolina and in the United Kingdom.

He preaches and teaches regularly and has served as interim pastor for several Oklahoma churches during his time at OBU, currently serving at First Baptist Church of Moore.

He and his wife Jill reside in Shawnee with their four children – Harrison, Isabelle, Simon and Sophia. 

ASSOCIATION NEWS



Celebrating 100 years of serving, the **Greater Gaston Baptist Association** met Oct. 29 for its annual meeting. Chosen Road Bluegrass Band from Virginia performed at the meeting, which included food and fellowship. “The message has not changed although methods have,” said Thane Kendall, associational missionary/director for the association, which is made up of 108 partnering churches. “It is the gospel that unifies us to do Kingdom missions together and to impact our communities with the message of the love of Jesus to a culture that is changing at a rapid rate. It is not how we start, but how we finish that is most important. And we want to finish well.” The association began Nov. 4, 1919, with 26 churches. (Contributed photo)

AROUND THE STATE

Obituary

GEORGE EDWARD SHORE, 89, died Nov. 15.

Born in Winston-Salem, Shore was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1950 and graduated from Duke University (1951), the same year he married Louise Simons.

Shore attended The Southern Seminary for one year then transferred to the newly opened Southeastern Seminary where he earned a bachelor of divinity (1954) and a master of theology (1955).

He pastored churches in Jeffersonville, Ind., and Durham, Nash, Rockingham, Davidson and Forsyth counties in North Carolina. Shore led Crestwood Baptist Church, Winston-Salem (1962-’69) and was director of Christian social ministries at Pilot Baptist Mountain Baptist Association (1969-’74), an appointment by the Home Mission Board.

Shore served as director of missions for Cabarrus Baptist Association (1974-’79), then with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) until his retirement in

1997. During his tenure with the BSC, he earned a doctor of ministry degree (1985) from the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (now Gateway Seminary).

Following retirement, Shore served as an interim and supply pastor at multiple churches and as interim director of missions for two Baptist associations. Shore and his wife have been long-time, active members of Crabtree Valley Baptist Church, Raleigh. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Louise, who resides in Cary; sons, Steven Shore in Apex and Kenneth Shore in Winston-Salem; four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Memorials to: Crabtree Valley Baptist Church, 4408 Lead Mine Rd., Raleigh, NC 27612; or Rex Healthcare Foundation, 2500 Blue Ridge Road #325, Raleigh, NC 27607.



GEORGE SHORE



John “Johnny” Theron Tiller, one of Fruitland Baptist Bible College’s retired professors, preached at the school’s chapel Nov. 1. The service celebrated Tiller’s 80 years of ministry. Tiller, seen here with Fruitland president David Horton, was born in Georgia but his family moved to Asheville, N.C., when he was five years old. He served four churches in North Carolina (1944-1993): Starnes Cove Baptist Church, Asheville; Burkemont Baptist Church, Morganton; Race Path Baptist Church, Ellenboro; and Pole Creek Baptist Church, Candler. He was a New Testament professor at Fruitland. Additionally, during retirement he served 13 times as interim pastor. Today, he continues preaching to those who gather for the Sunday morning worship service at the Pisgah Manor Nursing Facility in Asheville. (Contributed photo)

Have staff changes, retirements, obituaries or church news you want to share?

Send to editor@BRnow.org.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Is There a God?

December 8

Focal Passage: Psalm 19:1-6; 111:7-10

Almost every summer, Hollywood releases a handful of blockbuster films, but the hype begins much sooner. For a film lover, the entire process from the studio's initial announcement to the movie's final release is gratifying. For all the enjoyment that comes in waiting, there is nothing like the satisfaction that occurs when the movie delivers all that you hoped it would be.

The Bible teaches that in a similar way, God has chosen to reveal Himself to humanity. Generally, He has revealed Himself to all through creation and conscience. Like the teaser trailers that give us glimpses of the movie, general revelation teaches us much about God. However much we might learn about Him in this way, we still need more to know Him personally.

The Bible also teaches that God has chosen to reveal Himself specifically to His people through the Bible and through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Is there a God? Yes. All of humanity knows this intuitively, even though some choose to deny and suppress that knowledge. At the preaching of the gospel, the eyes of the one who knows God only generally are opened. In Jesus, he now knows God personally as Redeemer and Lord.

So, the next time you are at the theatre and the trailers play, remember the God of heaven who is pleased to reveal Himself to all, and as the final credits roll, praise Him for His grace in Jesus who has revealed Him personally to you and to all in the household of faith.



CASEY SHORT
Pastor, Pinetops Baptist Church, Williamston

Does Absolute Truth Exist?

December 15

Focal Passage: John 1:14-18; 8:30-32; 18:36-38a

You know the story well. A Christian man and woman own a small bakery. They run their business according to their Christian principles, principles based on the Bible, which classifies homosexual behavior as sin. One day a gay couple enters the bakery. The Christian couple is happy to serve them until they request a cake for their upcoming wedding. Fearing that to honor the couple's request would be to join in celebrating what they

believe to be sinful, the couple denies the request. Soon after, they are sued.

This story is an anomaly in a culture that operates by the mantra that every individual should be allowed

to live out his or her own personal version of truth. Such a story, however, is inevitable when competing personal truths collide. Shouldn't there be an absolute by which we can measure our truths?

Common sense says there should be. Experience says there should be. We accept the idea of absolute truth in virtually every human category except religion and morality.

By God's grace, Christians know there is such a standard – the Word of God, without error, fully trustworthy and solely sufficient for all that we need for life and godliness. Yet, many believers wrestle with the truth of scripture. Friends, we can experience and share real peace and freedom in a confused world full of competing truths. Let us shine the light and source of all truth, Jesus, that others might believe and be saved.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

God Judges

December 8

Focal Passage: Numbers 13:31-14:10

Our decisions have the possibility to change the trajectory of our lives, but all of the outcomes are ultimately in God's hands. Consider a student named Joanne Carol Schieble.

Schieble decided after high school to attend the University of Wisconsin where she met Abdul Fattah Jandali, a Syrian refugee and political science professor. They pursued a relationship, and eventually, Schieble became pregnant. The child was adopted by a couple in San Francisco, who later encouraged their son to start his own business: Apple. Perhaps if they made different life decisions, Steve Jobs would never have been born.

Our outcomes may change with our decisions, but God's will is unchanging. Prior to the events in this week's passage, the Lord sent

the leaders of the Israelites to explore Canaan – the land that God had promised Abraham's descendants.

They found the land to be exactly as God said it would be: good and fruitful. However, there were already people occupying the land.

In the discovery, their hearts were exposed. They did not trust God to give them the land, so they spread lies about the land around the camp.

The Israelites needed reminding in that moment that refusing to trust God and His promises leads to judgment. To follow God would mean certain victory, otherwise it would mean certain defeat. God's outcomes will not fail despite our rebellion, but God is glorified when His people carry out His commands.



WILL MATTHEWS
Student Pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Clinton

God Requires

December 15

Focal Passage: Numbers 20:1-13

I'll never forget my first trip to Carowinds. One of the new attractions opening that weekend was called The Xtreme Skycoaster – a towering steel lift that combined bungee jumping, hang gliding and skydiving. I was excited about the adventure of plunging 150 feet below to the ground at 65 miles per hour!

After convincing my grandparents this was a good idea and being strapped into the harness, the operator gave me instructions: Once I got to the top of the lift, he would give me a thumbs up to safely pull the ripcord. There was only one problem; when I got to the peak, I could not see the thumbs up! I had to

make a life and death decision: when is it time to pull the ripcord?

God requires a belief that compels us to act faithfully in following the Lord's instructions. In the wilderness, obedience was God's requirement for His people. Time after time God had provided for Moses and the Israelites.

Numbers 20 is not the first time the Israelites were in need of God's provision. Earlier in Exodus 17, the previous generation of Israelites had been to this rock and God had provided them water.

Moses' response to the rebellious Israelites led God to confront him about his own unbelief and disobedience. He didn't believe that speaking to the rock would work, so, in his anger, he slammed his staff against it. Despite his failing, God still allowed water to trickle from the rock. His grace prevailed over unbelief.

Chick-fil-A announces new approach to charitable giving

By JOSH WESTER | ERLC

On Nov. 18, the popular U.S. fast food chain, Chick-fil-A, Inc., announced a new policy concerning its charitable giving. According to an online statement, the policy, which will take effect in 2020, will focus the company's charitable donations on the areas of hunger, homelessness and education.

In 2019, the Chick-fil-A Foundation, the company's philanthropic arm, donated to upwards of 300 charitable organizations. Under the new policy, the foundation will distribute \$9 million dollars in pledged donations next year and will limit its partnerships to only one charity for each of its three initiatives.

In its announcement, the foundation stated that in 2020 it will be expanding its partnerships with Junior Achievement USA to support childhood education and Covenant House International to address youth homelessness. Additionally, the foundation also announced plans to "support more than 120 communities by dedicating \$25,000 to a local food bank at each new Chick-fil-A opening."

Chick-fil-A is one of the nation's fastest growing restaurant chains. With total sales in 2019 topping \$10 billion, Chick-fil-A, which is known for its crispy chicken sandwiches and cow-based commercials is now the third largest food chain in the United States, behind only McDonald's and Starbucks.

Despite its rapid growth, the Atlanta-based company has faced intense criticism in recent years over its charitable donations to groups that opposed same-sex marriage. Under the new policy, the foundation will no longer distribute funds to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), the Salvation Army, or the Paul Anderson Youth Home, three former partner organizations whose views on homosexuality have sparked criticism.


Established in 2012, the Chick-fil-A Foundation has distributed more than \$52 million in donations to support "education, entrepreneurship and leadership development programs" in local communities where Chick-fil-A operates its franchises. Chick-fil-A has not attributed the policy shift to criticism or outside pressure.

Instead, the company says the new policy re-

flects a more thoughtful philosophy of giving.

"Our goal," Tim Tassopoulos, president and COO of Chick-fil-A, Inc., said in a statement, "is to donate to the most effective organizations in the areas of education, homelessness and hunger.... Faith-based or non-faith-based, no organization will be excluded from future consideration."

In addition to its new initiative-based approach, the foundation also announced it "will no longer make multiyear commitments and will reassess its philanthropic partnerships annually to allow maximum impact." The foundation previously had multiyear partnerships with both the FCA and the Salvation Army, which ended in 2018.

The first Chick-fil-A restaurant opened in Georgia in 1946. In addition to its charitable donations planned for 2020, the company also stated it would continue to fund scholarships for Chick-fil-A employees and will also give back to local communities through its "True Inspiration Awards" program. Chick-fil-A anticipates its cash gifts for 2020 to total approximately \$32 million, including continued investment in revitalization efforts in the Westside community of Atlanta. 

CLASSIFIEDS

Pastor

The congregation of Kelleytown Baptist Church in Hartsville, SC, desires to aggressively grow by investing in children, youth and the millennial generation. We have a strong history of missions involvement and long pastor tenures. We are praying God will send us a **full-time Senior Pastor** with strong leadership experience to seek God's vision, deliver well constructed sermons and motivate the congregation to evangelize the community. Preferred candidate would be a seminary graduate with a doctorate degree (masters degree a minimum) with at least 10 years of experience in church growth. Résumés along with links to sermons can be submitted to resumes@kelleytownbc.com until December 31, 2019. For more information, visit Kelleytown.org.

Calvary Baptist Church Reidsville, NC, is seeking to call a **full-time pastor** who will lead our congregation to fulfill our mission as we exist to grow in our relationship with God, share the truth of God's word and reach out to our community and beyond. We are affiliated with BSCNC, SBC, CBF and Dan Valley Baptist Association. Applicants should have a seminary degree and at least 5 years of pastoral experience. Mail résumé to Calvary Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, 7860 NC 87, Reidsville, NC 27320, or email to cbcsearch2020@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church of St. Pauls, NC, is seeking a **full time pastor**. Accredited seminary degree required and minimum of two (2) years pastorate preferred. Send résumés by mail to Pastor Search Committee, 302 South Second Street, St. Pauls, NC 28384, or by email to: fbccstpauls@gmail.com.

White's Memorial Baptist in Franklinville, NC, is seeking a missions-minded **full-time Senior Pastor** to provide preaching and leadership in areas of spiritual growth, administration, and outreach. Personal characteristics and requirements: called by God; evangelism; displaying Jesus through word, action and discipleship; agree to 2000 Baptist Faith & Message; licensed and ordained by a Southern Baptist church; completed college and seminary; 5+ years experience in ministry. Email/mail résumé to: ktrogdon@triad.rr.com or to: WMBC, Search Committee, 2930 Whites Memorial Rd., Franklinville, NC 27248. Résumés accepted until Dec. 15, 2019.

Church Staff

PIANIST NEEDED: Fairview Baptist Church, Reidsville, is in search of a pianist for our worship services and rehearsals. Church experience a plus. Send résumés/inquiries to jheathlloyd@gmail.com.

Dry Ponds Baptist Church in Granite Falls, NC, is seeking a **full-time Minister of Youth and Children**. The youth and children associate minister of Dry Ponds Baptist Church needs to provide innovative and strong Christian leadership to develop relationships for Christ for and within Dry Ponds Baptist Church. Please send résumés to Dry Ponds Baptist Church 5235 Union Church Road Granite Fall, NC 28630, or e-mail them to secretary@dryponds.org. Résumés need to be in by December 20th.

Dublin First Baptist Church, is seeking a **full-time Associate Pastor and Minister to Students**. We are a conservative, mission-minded, Southern Baptist congregation in rural southeastern NC, average attendance of 200. We adhere to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and partner with the Bladen Baptist Association, Baptist State Convention of NC and the Southern Baptist Convention. We are searching for the man of God who is called to lead students and their families, possessing a deep knowledge of the Bible and gifted in teaching God's Word to young people and adults. This position has pastoral responsibilities conducted under the guidance of the Senior Pastor. A minimum associates degree in biblical studies required. Bachelors or seminary graduate with 5 years' experience as a youth leader/pastor preferred. Please send résumé to Associate Pastor and Minister of Youth Search Committee, PO Box 187, Dublin, NC 28332.

Pine Valley Baptist Church in Wilmington, NC, is seeking a **full-time Children's Minister**. Bachelor's degree in any applicable field required. PVBC is affiliated with the Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the SBC. Résumés may be emailed to laura@pinevalleybc.org.

Prospect Baptist Church, Albemarle, NC, is seeking a **full-time Children's Pastor/Director**. Primary duties include overseeing the ministries for children from birth to 5th grade. Experience in children's ministry is preferred. Please email your résumé to stoney@prospectbaptist.com or mail 502 Prospect Church Rd., Albemarle, NC 28001.

Placing a classified ad in the *Biblical Recorder*

Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: alison@BRnow.org.
- Purchase ads at BRnow.org/Advertise.
- Send a Fax to (919) 467-6180.

For more information, call the office at (919) 459-5691.

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